

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EARG, FAO, UNWFC, FODAG

SUBJECT: FAO CONSULTATION ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

FOLLOWING REPORT PREPARED BY U.S. DELEGATION TO SUBJECT MEETING
IN ROME.

1. SUMMARY: CONSULTATION ADOPTED EIGHT RECOMMENDATIONS OF
GENERAL CHARACTER DESIGNED LARGELY BY FAO SECRETARIAT TO
FOSTER FAO PROGRAM ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY. IT DID NOT TAKE
CONCLUSIVE STAND ON NATURE OF COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD
SECURITY, BUT LANGUAGE OF REPORT CLEARLY FAVORS SUCH SOM-
MITTEE AS SEPARATE BODY WHILE HOLDING OPEN SOME POSSIBILITY
OF MERGER WIT CCP. EC CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR LANGUAGE
TENDING TO SUPPORT ITS VIEW THAT MTN SUBGROUP ON GRAINS IS
SOLE NEGOTIATING FORUM. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSULTATION DID NOT DEAL DEFINITELY WITH QUESTION OF
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RELATIONSHIP OF COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY TO OTHER

PARTS OF FAO, PARTICULARLY COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS. THIS WILL NEED TO BE DONE AT JUNE SESSION OF FAO COUNCIL. SECRETARIAT EXPECTS COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF REQUIRED NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FAO CONSTITUTION 120 DAYS (EARLY JULY) IN ADVANCE OF NOVEMBER SESSION OF FAO CONFERENCE. LANGUAGE IN REPORT OF CONSULTATION CLEARLY FAVORS ESTABLISHING SEPARATE FOOD SECURITY COMMODITY, BUT THERE IS STILL BASIS ON WHICH TO ARGUE FOR COMBINING FOOD SECURITY AND CCP FUNCTIONS INTO ONE COMMITTEE.

3. CONSULTATION RECOMMENDED THAT FUNCTIONS OF FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE BE THOSE SPECIFIED IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC) RESOLUTION 22. CONSULTATION PROPOSED THAT MEMBERSHIP IN COMMITTEE WOULD BE OPEN TO FAO MEMBERS AND ALL STATE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

4. IN PROCESS OF ADOPTING REPORT OF CONSULTATION, LDC'S ATTEMPTED TO INSERT SEVERAL NEW ITEMS DEALING MAINLY WITH INCREASED FOOD AID AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. THESE WERE SUITABLY ACCOMMODATED. INDONESIAN DELEGATION UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT (FOR SECOND TIME) TO REVIVE SECRETARIAT-PROPOSED LANGUAGE WHICH AIMED AT RESTRICTING GOVERNMENTAL MEASURES REDUCING FOOD PRODUCTION (E.G. ACREAGE SET-ASIDES) UNTIL OBJECTIVES OF FOOD SECURITY WERE MET. U.S. DEL WAS JOINT BY AUSTRALIA AND CANADA IN NOTING THAT ANY INTERPRETATION APPLYING SUCH LIMITATION TO NATIONAL POLICIES AIMED AT MAINTAINING REMUNERATIVE PROCES FOR PRODUCERS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. NIGERIA DEL SETTLED MATTER BY PUBLICLY ADVISING INDONESIA NOT TO PURSUE PROPOSAL THAT WAS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE TO MAJOR GRAIN EXPORTERS.

3. EC, PRESSURED BY FRENCH DEL, CONTINUED TO PRESS TACTIC OF WRITING EXCLUSIVE NEGOTIATING ROLE OF MTN SUBGROUP ON GRAINS INTO CONSULTATION REPORT AND INTO RECOMMENDATION ENCOURAGING WORK ON FOOD SECURITY IN OTHER FORUMS, CITED PARA FIVE REFTEL, AS THE FORUM FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON GRAINS. US, EC AND FRENCH DELS FINALLY AGREED TO REFER BOTH TO WORK IN INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHEAT COUNCIL AND IN MTN AND CITE GRAINS SUBGROUP BY ITS OFFICIAL NAME TO BE OBTAINED BY FAO SECRETARIAT FROM GATT. THIS FOLLOWED FRENCH EFFORT TO TERM LATTER "NEGOTIATING SUBGROUP ON CERALS" AND ALSO EC AMENDMENT OF US STATEMENT ON AD HOC CONSULTATION WE CONVENED LAST FEBRUARY WITH NO PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF US DELEGATION. DALE

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